

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
AUGUST 1997**

**HNC REVISION: 12 JANUARY 1998  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 4 FEBRUARY 1998**

**1. SITE NAME:** Iona Island Naval Ammunition Depot

**SITE NUMBER:** C02NY074400

**LOCATION:**

City: Stony Point  
County: Rockland  
State: New York

**PROJECT NUMBER:** C02NY074403

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 3

**ASR RAC:** 3

**TAG RAC:** 2

**2. POC'S:**

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**3. SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Iona Island Naval Ammunition Depot, located on Iona Island and including adjacent Round Island, totaled 118.4 acres forty-five miles north of New York City and seven miles south of West Point Military Academy on the

western side of the Hudson River, in the Town of Stony Point, County of Rockland, State of New York. The island is accessible by Highway 9-W, adjacent to Bear Mountain State Park. The islands are currently under the administration of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and are operated by the staff of Bear Mountain Park which uses still existing buildings for storage. No future renovations are planned for the islands as they remain closed to the public. The INPR states that the site will be converted to an integral part of the State Park in the future.

The site ranges from very hilly to level. Terrain elevation is between a high of seventy feet NGVD to a low of zero feet NGVD. The area is low and wet consisting of meadows and marshy ground. Drainage is directly into the Hudson River through various creeks and by surface water drainage. Doodletown bight is located on the northern part of Iona Island. A bight is a bend in a river forming an open bay. The ASR states that in some areas, what used to be shoreline, is now marsh and that shoreline varies because the Hudson River is a tidal river. The Hudson River flows directly into the Hudson Bay.

Winters are usually cold and sometimes fairly severe with high temperatures below freezing and low temperatures below 10 F. July is the warmest month with a mean monthly temperature of 71.8 F and a daily mean maximum of 84 F.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** The Department of the Navy obtained 118.4 acres per deed dated 4 April 1900 and Declaration of Taking dated 20 March 1942 and designated the site as the Iona Island Naval Depot. The Navy operated Iona Island as an ammunition depot for almost 50 years (1900-1947). Activities at the ammunition depot included: preparing, assembling, maintaining, inspecting, testing, storing and issuing ammunition. Structures to support these activities were constructed.

During the period 1899-1918, the Naval Ammunition Depot served as the main supply and preparation depot for ammunition in the New York District. It furnished ammunition for battleships, transports, convoys, patrol vessels and armed merchantmen. With the arrival of World War I, and due to its proximity to New York harbor, Iona became the most important of the Navy's seven ammunition supply depots during the war. In the 1930's, the Bureau of Yards and Docks commenced several maintenance and remodeling programs. From 1918 - 1940, the depot continued to supply ammunition of all calibers to the fleet for service allowances, target practice and war reserve requirements.

The U.S. Government acquired the adjacent seven acre Round Island in 1941 on which they constructed fifteen new magazines. During WWII, more than 2,300 Navy ships and 2,300 merchant ships received their ammunition from Iona, in addition to seventy-seven bases, 500 shore stations and 700 foreign Naval ships. A mission statement from 1945 revealed the islands' two-fold purpose: to store temporarily all types and calibers of ammunition (except high explosives) and to supply ammunition to U.S. Army and Naval vessels, foreign combatant ships and landing craft. In regards to high explosives, "the Naval Ammunition Depot in Earle, NJ, upon request from Naval Ammunition Depot Iona Island, makes all necessary issues of high explosives ammunition to fill requirements of vessels and shore activities served by the latter depot." Iona also issued and delivered ammunition to shore establishments of the Third Naval District.

With the development of more modern facilities and the lack of expansion room on the island, use of Iona was curtailed after the war. In 1947, the Navy reached the decision to deactivate Iona and made the property available for restricted lease during the next year. The Bureau of Ordnance redesignated the island as an Annex to the U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot, Earle, New Jersey.

On 30 July 1957, the site was declared excess and transferred to the General Services Administration. Between 1955 and 1960, the General Services Administration (GSA) used the former depot on a permit basis for stockpile materials such as rubber and copper. In 1960, the GSA received official jurisdiction over the property. Other agencies under GSA control used Iona primarily for records storage during the 1960's. The Maritime Administration also used the main wharf for occasional transshipments of heavy freight. On March 30, 1965, the last carload of stockpiled material left the grounds and Iona Island was considered evacuated. Per quitclaim deed dated 16 September 1965, GSA conveyed Iona Island and Round Island, 118.61 acres fee, to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

## **5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Size, Acres:	118.61
Former Use:	Navy Ammunition Depot
Present Use:	Storage; Under jurisdiction of State Park
Probable End Use:	Part of State Park
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Grenade, practice; signal flare; medium/large caliber; small arms; WP munition; secondary explosives; riot

control agent

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Iona Island Naval Ammunition Depot was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in August 1997.

**7. STRATEGY:** RAC 2;EE/CA

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group has determined a strategy of RAC 2, EE/CA for this site rather than the RAC 3, EE/CA recommended in the ASR. The draft ASR Risk Assessment Value of 3 on the RAC form was based upon values for practice grenades and signal flares while the ASR mentions historical records and reports of other types of OE being present at the site. A new RAC form with a value of 2 is attached and supersedes that in the ASR. It includes values for other ammunition which was stored at the site, which was involved in the explosion of 1903, and which was reported in incidents over the years. The site survey team found no unexploded hazards during inspection of the site. The ASR identifies the area of the 1903 explosion shown in Plate 15 as having the potential for OE.

**Site Acreage:** The ASR states that the site consists of 129 acres while the INPR indicates 118.4. The ASR states: "Several documents state that Iona Island consists of 129 acres. Of these 129 acres, 116 acres are rough, rocky, and partly wooded, and 13 acres are marsh. Another source states that, of these 129 acres, 105.91 acres are hard land and 23 acres are swamp. Three additional sources, including the INPR, declare that Iona Island consists of 118.4 acres; of which 111.4 acres were acquired in 1900 and an additional 7 acres (Round Island) was purchased at a later date. And finally, another document states that 115.8 acres were acquired in 1900. Round Island was acquired in 1942. According to the legal description, this acquisition enlarged the facility by 7 acres. However, the land, with appurtenances, was later estimated to be 11.5 acres."

**Natural Resources:** Federally- and State-threatened species occur within the site area and are listed in ASR Findings, pages 3-5 thru 3-6, paragraph 3.5. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

**Historical Resources:** The ASR did not indicate if historical/cultural resources were found to be present at the site. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight

by the State Historical Preservation Office and/or other like organizations.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only